



The Town of Bowers

3308 Main St.

Frederica, DE 19946

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bowersbeach.delaware.gov

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., October 13, 2016 by Vice Mayor, Patty Mabis.

Council members present: Patty Mabis, Helena Hannah, and Bob McDevitt. Patty announced the resignation of Janis LaRochelle, Secretary, and explained that Kristin Potter would be recording the minutes for this meeting. However, Vice Mayor Patty Mabis noted that Kristin was not filling the role of Secretary, but simply recording the minutes for.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the previous month's minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. The Report was made available for anyone to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Recreation:

Brian LaRochelle reported that a tree across from the DNREC parking lot fell down and was in need of maintenance. Bob indicated that Kent County had previously maintained other trees in that area and are likely responsible for same. Brian stated that he would obtain the County's number from Bob and make an effort to get the fallen tree removed.

In addition, Brian reported that a tree in the bocce ball court had lost limbs and was also in need of maintenance. Brian attempted to contact a landscaper at least three (3) times, but his efforts were unsuccessful due to a wrong phone or fax number. Brian indicated that he would follow up again the following day, Friday, October 14, 2016.

Planning: Nothing to report

Streets: Nothing to report

Board of Adjustments:

Vice Mayor, Patty Mabis, received a verbal Notice of Resignation from Kyle Miller. Kyle did not indicate his exact date of resignation. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept Kyle Miller's resignation.

Zoning & Code Revisions: Nothing to report

Code Enforcement: Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS

Drainage Project status

The drainage project has been reassigned to Patty Mabis and Helena Hannah. Patty reported that she and Helena have been in contact with Jean Holloway (SERCAP) to assist the Council in moving forward with the project. In addition, Patty scheduled a meeting on October 19, 2016 with the contractor (McCrone), as well as and with a representative from the Department of Agriculture and Jean Holloway. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the new players on the Drainage Project, assess the current status and move forward on Area 1 - - Hubbard Avenue.

Patty further discussed that the contract with McCrone had initially included the three areas; but, it appears more financially and expeditiously feasible to divide the work into separate parts. Dividing the work would enable the Town to implement the plan for each area at a quicker and more efficient pace. Patty continued to explain that focusing on Area 1, Hubbard Avenue would involve preparing a Request for Proposal, accepting bids and selecting a contractor to complete the required construction. Patty indicated that if all goes well, Project Area 1 – Hubbard Avenue will could be completed as early as March 2017.

Property Appraisal – Katherine Reitmeier Property

This topic was tabled until a contractor can determine the feasibility of this property for use in the Drainage Project, Area 2 – N. Flack and N. Bayshore.19, 2016. There was some discussion over whether the Town should consider purchasing this property, because the only identified purpose for doing so would be to utilize it in the drainage project. In addition, Helena added that there may be liability issues related to the purchase of the property; and; that she had begun to investigate what those liabilities would be and the cost to the Town.

Beach Replenishment

It was discussed that due to the severe dune breach that occurred on North Bay Shore and extending to North Flack Avenue, the project for that area will require much more thought design work before that project area may be explored.

Finally, it was noted that DNREC received money by way of a bond for beach replenishment. This money is not necessarily for Bowers Beach.

A town resident suggested that Council have a meeting on the beach with DNREC in order to receive some face-to-face communication and more concrete information. Ron suggested waiting until after Election Day and the Board agreed.

Phragmites

Bob stated that the Dave Morgan Company was chosen to come out and spray. Although the Dave Morgan Company was the most expensive bid, they were the most efficient company with regard to the kill rate. The total cost was about \$4,500, however, the Town was reimbursed by way of grant monies. Bob further stated that the Phragmites would have to be cut two (2) to three (3) weeks after being sprayed because the chemical is in the roots. Bob indicated that this would not require additional spending on the part of the Town.

Town of Bowers "Cleanup Day"

The Town will receive an invoice/bill for the dumpster. Judy informed the Board that sixty-one (61) individuals participated in the cleanup, including Boy Scout Troops and the Caesar Rodney Honor Society. In sum, 814 cigarette butts were picked up, as well as beverage containers, construction materials, bottles, and a propane tank.

Audit of Town Financial Statements

Helena contacted two (2) companies who provided quotes of \$7,000 and \$5,000. Helena stated that the Town cannot afford either of these companies and thus, the Town must think of an alternative option with regard to the audit. Ron suggested utilizing a separately selected audit committee comprised of members of the Bowers Beach Fire Company since the audit does not need to be performed by a certified accounting firm.

"Big Thursday"

Judy reported that this year is the first year in eleven (11) years that each business or entity in Town is participating in Big Thursday. A discussion ensued about the different events to take place on Big Thursday, including: a 5K, parade, Milford band, Miss Delaware, Honor Guard for DAFB, Jeep show, and vendors.

Emergency Vehicle Access A resident expressed concerns about emergency vehicle access on North Bayshore. Patty and Bob met with Phillip Pennington, Chief of Bowers Beach Fire Department, who indicated that the Fire Dept. has no issues getting access to any location in Bowers Beach although some areas are tighter and harder to maneuver than others.

Patty and Phil both indicated that the Town Council and Bowers Beach Fire Department need to work on being more connected and working as a team.

Missing “No Parking” Signs

Bob will order new “No Parking” signs to be placed near beach areas.

Public Dock at the end of Hubbard Avenue

The Town received a letter from a resident questioning responsibility for the dock at the end of Hubbard Avenue. It was established that the Town has jurisdiction over the dock and is responsible for maintaining same.

NEW BUSINESS

Parking Lot Climate Control

This topic was tabled, as the Board needs additional information and there have been no meaningful decisions made regarding this project.

Safety Concern on Church Street

There were concerns raised regarding an overgrown tree located on what used to be Jack Hahn’s (phonetic) property. Specifically, the branches of the tree are scratching vehicles as they drive down Church Street and there is no other alternative to reach the homes located past this property. Mr. Koerner contacted the Town’s landscaping company, Sullivan’s. Johnny Sullivan provided a quote of \$535. Because the property is owned by Fannie Mae, Helena indicated that she would contact the Town’s attorney and determine whether the Town can cure the overgrown tree and submit an invoice for payment to Fannie Mae, or whether the Town would need to provide Fanny Mae with a Notice to Cure the hazard.

Big Thursday Marker

Patty was informed by the lead for the State Committee responsible for providing the historic marker for our Town that grant funding is available to produce another historic marker in honor of Big Thursday. This marker could be placed by the museum.

Sewage System

There was a discussion about the Town pumping station. Although it is unclear in what manner, either rain water or salt water accumulated in the drains and overwhelmed the system. At the time of the meeting, a part was on order from Sweden and would be repaired upon receipt of same. There was further discussion about private landowners who experienced broken sewer pipes.

Arctic Blast

Judy informed the Board that the VFW would like to schedule the Second Annual Arctic Blast on January 21, 2016. The Board approved.

Road Closings

Phillip Pennington, Chief of Bowers Beach Fire Department informed the Board that there will be a significant amount of construction, road closings, and delays in the near future. Specifically, he indicated that Skeeter Neck Road, Barrett's Chapel Road, and Old Barrett's Chapel Road would be closed until about December 2016.

Housekeeping Matters

Ada commended Brian and Janis LaRochelle on their efforts in obtaining the Town marker.

It was announced that the Secretary position remained open. Shirley Pennington indicated that she would accept the Secretary position. Ada swore Shirley in, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept Shirley's fulfillment of the position.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Potter, Note Taker ☺